



Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

UK's approach to deforestation

UKSCI Session

9 July 2026

Speakers

Claire Gear

- Deputy Director for International Deforestation Regulations, EU Reset and Trade Group, DEFRA



Mike Brookes

- Head of Policy, International Deforestation Regulations, Great Britain. EU Reset and Trade Group, DEFRA



Ella Beckett

- Head of Policy, International Deforestation Regulations, Northern Ireland. EU Reset and Trade Group, DEFRA



Agenda

- 23 June Announcement
- Great Britain approach
- Northern Ireland approach
- Q&A



In 2023 UK consumption of FRC commodities was linked to 19,000 hectares of UK driven deforestation, and associated with 3.7 million tonnes of CO2 emissions.

GB Deforestation approach

Mike Brookes

Head of Policy for International Deforestation Regulations, Great Britain. EU
Reset and Trade Group, DEFRA



23 June Announcement



Confirmation that the EUDR will apply in Northern Ireland from the end of December 2026



Intention to bring forward mandatory due diligence regulations in Great Britain that work alongside the EUDR, including under schedule 17 of the Environment Act



Strengthening the UK Timber Regulations



Ambition to transition to a deforestation-free standard over time



A consultation will be launched on implementation of the proposed approach in Great Britain for forest risk commodities and on proposals to strengthen the UK Timber Regulations.

Key elements of approach in GB

- Regulated commodities (corresponding with EUDR scope): cattle products, cocoa, coffee, oil palm, rubber, soya, timber
- Aim is that businesses over £1m turnover will need to ensure that forest risk commodities were produced in compliance with relevant local laws, establish a due diligence system and report on it annually.
- Additional requirement under the new proposals to gather geolocation data, hold it, and pass it along supply chain.
- Aim to make sure the proposed policy for Great Britain operates alongside the EUDR. Businesses who use the regulated products will be required to hold broadly the same information as what is needed for a due diligence statement when placing or making available goods on the EU or NI market.
- This supports the government's commitment to protect the UK internal market, support export-led growth.
- Initial focus remaining on illegal deforestation, with ambition to transition to a deforestation-free standard in due course.

GB next steps

- We are working to launch a consultation on our proposals as soon as possible.
- We will be seeking views from stakeholders on the proposed policy, we encourage you all to engage with the upcoming consultation.
- We will be holding a series of webinars and forums about the regulations during the consultation period.
- Consultation will likely be open for 4-6 weeks
- Consultation timelines to be confirmed
- Visit our **Gov.uk** page for further guidance. Guidance on [implementing EUDR is available here.](#)
- For any questions/queries, please contact us at **frcregulations@defra.gov.uk**



NI approach to deforestation

Ella Beckett

- Head of Policy, International Deforestation Regulations, Northern Ireland. EU Reset and Trade Group, DEFRA



EUDR applies in Northern Ireland

- The EU Regulation on Deforestation-free Products (EUDR) will apply in Northern Ireland to ensure NI's unique access to the EU Single Market
- UK businesses operating within the EU or placing relevant products on the EU or NI markets will have to comply with the EUDR.
 - Large and medium operators will need to follow these new rules from 30 December 2026
 - Micro and small operators will need to follow EUDR rules from 30 December 2026 for wood products currently regulated under the EU Timber Regulation
 - All other relevant products must follow EUDR rules from 30 June 2027
- We intend to ensure that the proposed policy for Great Britain operates consistently alongside the EUDR. This supports the government's commitment to protect the UK internal market and support export-led growth
- **Which products are covered by EUDR in Northern Ireland?** EUDR requirements will apply to wood, cattle, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, rubber, soy and certain derived products like chocolate and furniture
- The UK maintains its continued commitment to global partnerships with timber producing countries
- Guidance on [implementing EUDR is available here.](#)

What are the EUDR requirements?

- The EUDR requires businesses to conduct due diligence and provide evidence that timber and forest risk commodities imported into, exported from, and made available on the EU market are legal and deforestation-free.
- Products must be deforestation-free and legally produced
- Companies must submit a due diligence statement (DDS) to the EU's Information System (TRACES), before placing a product on the market in the EU or exporting it
- Provide geolocation data for where commodities were grown
- New checks to be carried out at the border

Who must comply?

- The EUDR applies to three categories of market participants: **operators, traders and downstream operators**. While their roles and responsibilities differ, both are essential in ensuring only deforestation-free products enter or circulate within the EU market.
- **Operators**: companies or individuals who place relevant commodities or derived products on the EU market or export them from the EU
 - Specific definition for **small and micro primary operators**, who are based in low-risk countries and produce the commodity themselves
- **Traders**: companies that make EUDR-regulated products available on the EU market, but are not the first to place them there
- **Downstream operators**: companies that place on the market or export relevant products made using relevant products, all of which are already covered by a due diligence statement or by a simplified declaration.

Who will the Competent Authorities be?

- The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS)
- Northern Ireland's Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)



Next steps, guidance and support

How we are supporting businesses

- We will be delivering a programme of webinars, workshops and stakeholder forums as part of our wider business awareness and readiness campaign ahead of implementation.
- We will share details of these events with stakeholders as they become available.

Guidance and updates

- Further guidance has now been published on GOV.UK to help businesses understand the EUDR requirements and prepare for compliance. [Moving, exporting or placing deforestation-free products on the market in Northern Ireland - GOV.UK](#)
- EU Guidance on [implementing EUDR is available here.](#)
- We will continue to publish additional guidance and updates as implementation approaches.

Need support?

For further information or specific questions, please contact:

Defra: frcregulations@defra.gov.uk • HMRC NI Stakeholder Engagement Team: